

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for browsing products using competitor information, the system comprising:
- a product database including first data representing a product, including second data representing a competing product, and including third data representing an association between said product and said competing product, said product database stored on a computer readable medium;
- a dynamic page file for generating an electronic store page, said dynamic page file including instructions to use said second data as a query parameter to obtain said first data from said product database, said first data included in said electronic store page, said dynamic page file stored on said computer readable medium; and
- a product information server responsive to a customer request for said electronic store page to access said dynamic page file, to process said instructions and to provide said electronic store page to said customer, said product information server running on a computer operably connected to said computer readable medium.
2. The system as described in Claim 1, wherein said product database includes data representing an association between a manufacturer and said second data, said system further comprising:
- a second dynamic page file for generating a second electronic store page, said dynamic page file including second instructions to use information identifying a manufacturer as a query parameter to obtain said second data from said product database, said second data included in said second electronic store page, said second dynamic page file stored on said computer readable medium.
3. The system as described in Claim 2, wherein said product information server responds to a customer request for said second electronic store page by accessing said second dynamic page file, by processing said second instructions, and by providing said second electronic store page to said customer.

4. The system as described in Claim 1 further comprising:
an electronic store page having a hyperlink responsive to a customer selection of said hyperlink to generate said request.
5. The system as described in Claim 4 further comprising:
a customer browser which transmits said second data to said page server upon said selection of said hyperlink.
6. The system as described in Claim 5, wherein said product database includes product cost information related to said product, further comprising:
a cost savings form on said electronic store page, said cost savings form receiving competing cost information about said competing product, said customer browser transmitting said cost information to said page server; and
second instructions in said dynamic page file for comparing said competing cost information and said product cost information to calculate cost savings information, said product information server providing said savings information to said customer.
- 15 7. A method for locating information about a product using information about a corresponding product, said method comprising the steps of:
transmitting with a page server at least one corresponding product hyperlink to a customer browser, said at least one corresponding product hyperlink operatively associated with a corresponding product identifier representing a corresponding product and operatively associated with a page file identifier representing a corresponding product page file;
receiving with said customer browser said corresponding product hyperlink;
- 20 25 displaying with said customer browser information identifying a product, a portion of said displayed information selectable to activate said corresponding product hyperlink; and
responding to a selection of said portion by transmitting to said page server a request for said corresponding product page file and by transmitting to said page server said product identifier.
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8. The method as described in Claim 7, comprising the further steps of:
receiving with said page server said request for said corresponding
product page file and said identifier;
processing instructions in said page file to use said identifier to obtain
5 data representing a corresponding product; and
transmitting with said page server to a customer browser said data
representing said corresponding product.
9. The method as described in Claim 8, comprising the further steps of:
transmitting with said page server at least one manufacturer hyperlink
10 to a customer browser, said at least one manufacturer hyperlink operatively
associated with a manufacturer identifier representing a manufacturer and
operatively associated with a second page file identifier representing a
manufacturer product list page file;
receiving with said customer browser said manufacturer hyperlink;
15 displaying with said customer browser second information identifying
said manufacturer, a portion of said displayed second information selectable to
activate said manufacturer hyperlink; and
responding to a selection of said portion of said second information by
transmitting to said page server a request for said manufacturer product list
20 page file and by transmitting to said page server said manufacturer identifier.
10. The method as described in Claim 9, comprising the further steps of:
receiving with said page server said request for said manufacturer
product list page file and said manufacturer identifier;
processing second instructions in said manufacturer product list page
25 file to use said manufacturer identifier to obtain data representing products of
said manufacturer; and
transmitting with said page server to a customer browser said data
representing said products of said manufacturer.
11. An e-store dynamic page file comprising:
30 static content including content identification tags which may be
interpreted to format said content;

script components including:

connection instructions to establish a connection to a product database;

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query instructions to query said product database using a search key provided to said query instructions as a parameter, and to thereby obtain a recordset including at least one record, each of said at least one records including information about competing products; and

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hyperlink creation instructions to create a hyperlink for each of said at least one records, each hyperlink referencing a corresponding product page file for transmitting information about a corresponding product, each hyperlink including an identifier representing a corresponding product.

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12. The e-store dynamic page file as described in Claim 11 further comprising:

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a cost savings form including at least one text entry field for accepting competing cost information related to the cost of said competing products and including a cost savings hyperlink, the cost savings hyperlink referencing a corresponding product page file for transmitting information about a difference in cost between said products and said competing products, the cost savings hyperlink including an identifier representing a corresponding product and at least one cost identifier representing said competing cost information.

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13. The e-store dynamic page file as described in Claim 12 wherein said script components further include:

form placement instructions for generating said cost savings form once for each of said at least one records.

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14. A system for locating information about products, said system comprising:

associating means for storing an association between a product and a corresponding product;

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requesting means responsive to an identification of said product to request information about said corresponding product;

query means for using said identification of said product to access said associating means and to thereby obtain said information about said corresponding product;

information assembly means responsive to said request to invoke said query means and to format said information about said corresponding product; and

transmitting means for presenting to a customer said formatted information about said corresponding product.

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